Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650



Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Secret

3.5(c)

# STAFF NOTES:

# Latin American Trends

Secret
132

June 25, 1975
No. 0515/75

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

3.5(c)
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

SECRET

LATIN AMERICAN TRENDS

[redacted] 3.5(c)

CONTENTS

June 25, 1975

[redacted] NR

Argentina: The Dialogue That Never Was . . . . 6

[redacted] NR



SECRET

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650



3.5(c)

Argentina: The Dialogue That Never Was

President Peron has held another of her infrequent meetings with Ricardo Balbin, the leader of the major opposition party--the Radical Civic Union. As in previous sessions, Mrs. Peron heard Balbin's tactful criticisms of her administration, but was not particularly forthcoming or conciliatory. The only notable difference was the presence of Foreign Minister Vignes, who acted as Mrs. Peron's secretary in place of Lopez Rega, who was temporarily out of the country.

In spite of Mrs. Peron's effort to pay lip service to the political dialogue initiated by her late husband, her apparently total dependence on Lopez Rega has discouraged constructive contacts with all political sectors, including other Peronist officials. Balbin is under pressure from his party, as indicated by his reported statement to the President that their meetings must produce results. Other spokesmen for the centrist Radicals now openly state that if no action is taken on their complaints, the party will issue a document saying that the "dialogue is dead."

Balbin may well be in danger of losing his mantle to someone more aggressive because of his efforts to play the role of a constructive critic. In the past his detractors have characterized Balbin as an "old hack" and last week the extremist Montonero organization revived this charge in a full-page announcement published in several prominent US and European newspapers. The announcement was paid for by the huge Bunge and Born Company as part of an agreement with the Montoneros to facilitate the release of two kidnapped company executives. The article specifically attacked Balbin as one of the politicians who play at constructive opposition based on dialogue and respect for the institutions" and "one of the masters of all the skills to make the popular struggle their own, without ever representing their (the people's) interest."

June 25, 1975



Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650



More important than the possible replacement of Balbin, however, is the fact that none of the opposition political parties has developed viable alternatives to the government's increasingly unpopular policies. Historically it has been precisely their absence of democratic options that has ultimately facilitated the intervention of the armed forces as the "guardians of the republic."

3.5(c)

June 25, 1975



Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02691650